

SENATE BILL 2202
By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,
Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to medical examiners
and assistant medical examiners.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-7-104, is amended by adding the
following new subsection:

(g)

(1) The legislative body of any county may establish, by resolution, the
position of assistant medical examiner. If such a position is established, the
assistant medical examiner shall be a licensed EMT, paramedic, registered nurse
or physician's assistant.

(2) If the county has an elected coroner, the coroner shall serve as the
assistant medical examiner provided such coroner meets the qualifications for an
assistant medical examiner set out in subdivision (1). If the coroner is not
qualified to serve as assistant medical examiner, the medical examiner shall
appoint an assistant medical examiner who shall be subject to confirmation by
the county legislative body.

(3) If the assistant medical examiner is not the coroner, such assistant
shall be an employee of the county.

(4) The assistant medical examiner may make a determination and
pronouncement of death and may recommend to the medical examiner that an
autopsy be ordered. The assistant medical examiner may conduct investigations

when a death is reported as provided in § 38-7-108 under the supervision of the medical examiner

SECTION 2. For purposes of a county adopting a resolution creating an assistant medical examiner, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes it shall take effect on July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.